

201-215 West Main Street --
Davidson & Driggs Building
213 W. Main St.
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-135 D

HABS
IND,
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

201-215 West Main Street--

Davidson & Driggs Building

HABS No. IN-135D

Location: 213 West Main Street, Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana.
Present Owner: Anthony and Leonard Dattilo.
Present Occupant: Dattilo Fruit Co.
Present Use: Wholesale and retail sales.
Significance: A mid nineteenth-century commercial structure distinguished by its metal hood molds and cornice.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1853-1854. The Tax Lists and Assessments of the City of Madison show an increase in the assessed value of this property from \$1300 in 1851 to \$2250 in 1854. In a November 16, 1852, agreement recorded in Deed Book 42, pp. 241-242, John Mulvey, owner of the present 211 West Main, granted to Davidson and Driggs, owner of 213 West Main, the "use of the Western wall of his (Mulvey's) house...as a partition wall in common...."
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is part of Lot 26 in the First Addition West to the Town (now City) of Madison, being 22 feet on the southern line of Main Street. The following deed references may be located at the Recorder's Office of the Jefferson County Court House, Madison, Indiana:
 - 1851 Warranty Deed, dated December 8, 1851; recorded in Deed Book 7, page 652 on January 9, 1852. Jacob B. and Rachael Ritter sold the title to the property to William S. Driggs for consideration of \$1760.
 - 1863 Warranty Deed, dated April 20, 1863; recorded in Deed Book 21, page 176, on April 25, 1863. William S. and Elizabeth Driggs sold the property to Driggs' business partner, John Davidson (misspelled Davison) for consideration of \$2000.
 - 1880 Warranty Deed, dated March 20, 1880; recorded in Deed Book 44, page 53 on March 31, 1880. John and Charity Davidson sold the title to the property along with two other parcels to Evangeline A. Darling for \$8500.

- 1881 Warranty Deed, dated November 5, 1881; recorded in Deed Book 45, page 381 on November 11, 1881. Evangeline A. and William L. Darling sold the title to the property to John Wade for \$3750.
- 1888 Warranty Deed, dated September 12, 1888; recorded in Deed Book 54, page 299 on September 12, 1888. John and Mary Wade sold the property to George Diederich for \$3750.
- 1906 Warranty Deed, dated October 24, 1906; recorded in Deed Book 78, page 499 on October 24, 1906. George and Christina Diederich sold the title of the property to Matz Lyons and Charles F. Collins for consideration of \$6000.
- 1908 Warranty Deed, dated July 11, 1908, recorded in Deed Book 80, page 382 on July 13, 1908. Charles and Nellie E. Collins sold the title of their one-half interest in the property to Barbara Jones for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1915 Warranty Deed, dated September 11, 1915; recorded in Deed Book 86, page 520 on October 8, 1915. Lucy Lyons, widow of Matz Lyons, sold her one-half interest in the property as sole heir of Matz Lyons to Barbara Jones for \$41.00 and other considerations.
- 1937 Sheriff's Deed, dated September 22, 1937, recorded in Sheriff's Deed Book 5, page 40 on September 23, 1937. Leslie S. Bear, as Sheriff of Jefferson County, sold the property of Barbara and Daniel Jones to the Home Building Association #5 at auction for \$3,399.00.
- 1937 Warranty Deed, dated October 26, 1937; recorded in Deed Book 102, page 518 on October 27, 1937. The Home Building Association #5 sold the title to the property to Anthony and Mary A. Dattilo for consideration of \$3,000.00.
- 1974 Quit-claim Deed, dated May 29, 1974, recorded in Deed Book 158, page 917 on June 20, 1974. Mary Ann Dattilo, as an heir of Anthony Dattilo, released and quit claimed the property to Anthony J. and Leonard Dattilo for \$1.00 and other considerations.
4. Builders, contractors, suppliers, etc.: Davidson and Driggs owned and operated their business in "stoves and tinware" at this address for many years, and it could be that they created the sheet metal cornice and window caps for this structure, as well as for 209 West Main Street, which was built two years before and furnished with identical design details.

5. Original plans and construction: As in most nineteenth-century commercial structures, the plan of this building was originally composed of an open, long and narrow room used as retail commercial sales space, usually with the upper floors used as stockroom storage.
 6. Additions and alterations: As with most older commercial structures, this building has had many alterations and additions to its fabric. The storefront composition of the building is not original, and probably dates from later in the nineteenth century. The storefront has been covered by a large signboard, possibly ca. 1970. The original sales room of this commercial structure has been divided into office and storage areas, in the 1940's. A doorway was cut through the partition wall with 211 West Main Street ca. 1945 when the Dattilo Fruit Company expanded its business from next door into this building. A large brick trussed storage addition was added to the rear of both structures in common at about this time as well.
- B. Historical Context: James Davidson and William S. Driggs operated their business in stoves and tinware here. William S. Driggs was born on May 29, 1810, in Baltimore, Maryland. He moved to Madison in 1828 and established his stove and tinware business with James Davidson in the 1840's, occupying this building from 1852 to 1880. James Davidson was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, on December 6, 1810. In 1842, Davidson moved to Madison and soon after joined in a partnership with William D. Driggs. Driggs and Davidson continued the business at a different location after 1880. Driggs died July 22, 1882, after about forty years in the business, leaving Davidson to continue the firm. In 1866, Davidson moved from Madison to Shelby Township and retired from his work, leaving his son Thomas as successor. Davidson died on July 15, 1886, after only a few months of retirement.

Other commercial businesses at this location, as noted in the Madison directories:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1909 | Alexander White's Lunchroom
Lyons and Jones Billiards |
| 1923 | Daniel Jones Billiards (Upper stories vacant) |
| 1939 | Pat's Pool Room |
| 1942 | Pat's Pool Room
(Upper stories were listed as apartments, occupied by
Anderson Bayard, a driver for the Dattilo Fruit Co., and
Henry Carter). |

1947 A. Dattilo Fruit Co. (Upper floors used as apartments)

The Directories have shown the upper floors vacant since 1966.

C. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Tax Lists and Assessments of the City of Madison, 1837-1900.
These records are kept in the basement of the City Hall of
Madison, Indiana.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Directories of the City of Madison, published by various companies.

Madison Daily Courier: July 22, 1882; July 17, 1886.

Prepared by: John Linn Hopkins
Project Historian
Summer, 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building forms a part of a nineteenth-century commercial streetscape.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This three-story building is approximately 19'-0" (three-bay front) x 80'-0". The rear part of the building is only two stories.
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Common-bond brick, painted. Vertical wooden siding on the first floor front covers part of the cast-iron storefront. There are cast-iron pilasters at each side of the storefront, each with a bracket at the top, which support a cast-iron cornice with modillions. Part of the west side wall is plastered.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing walls with wooden framing.

5. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on the west wall.
 6. Porches: There is a large covered loading dock, with doors, across the south side of the building.
 7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance to the second-floor stairway on the east edge of the front facade has wooden surrounds, metal sill and a wooden frame door with glass panel. Next to this is a double doorway with wooden surrounds, metal sill and wooden-framed glass doors. On the rear are wooden overhead doors.
 - b. Windows: The display window has a fixed glass panel in a wooden surround above a wooden panel. Wooden windows on the second and third floor have two-over-two-light double-hung sash, with wooden surrounds, stone sills and metal hoods supported by brackets. The hoods have a raking top with an embellished keystone.
 8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The shed roof has a standing seam metal covering.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The projecting boxed metal cornice has paired brackets and modillions.
- C. Description of Interior:
1. Floor plans:
 - a. Cellar: The cellar, with its concrete floor, is used for storage. There is a trap door at the loading dock and a conveyor leading into the cellar.
 - b. First floor: The entrance on the west side leads into the office. The storage area covers the rest of the floor.
 - c. Second and third floors: Inaccessible.
 2. Stairways: The wooden stairway to the second floor is located along the east wall of the building, with an exterior doorway on the north facade.

3. Flooring: The wooden floors have been covered with plywood flooring in the storage area. There is a small area that has not been covered that has a ceramic tile flooring made of small tile flooring made of small tile mosaics. The office is carpeted.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: The office has modern wood paneling walls and acoustical tile ceiling. The storage room has plywood wall covering and acoustical tile ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: There is a wooden flush panel door with a wooden surround and wooden threshold between the office and storage room.
6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: Unit heaters.
 - b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures.

D. Site:

The building sits in a row of commercial buildings. An alley extends across the rear, near the loading docks.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc., and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, H.A.B.S., and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University); John Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and Student Assistant Architects Richard Berlinger (Rhode Island School of Design); Jon Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.